GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The existing scheme of Civil Services Examination was introduced w.e.f. 1979 based on the report of the Committee on Recruitment Policy and Selection Methods commonly known as Kothari Committee set up by the UPSC. The scheme of C.S. (Main) Examination contains two compulsory papers-Paper I—English and Paper II one of the Indian languages included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution and two papers in each of two optionals of the essay type. The compulsory papers have been designed to test the candidates ability to read, analyse and understand serious discursive prose and to express his ideas clearly and correctly in English|Indian languages concerned. The optionals further test the candidates ability *inter-alia* in conceptualisation, power of analysis and logical expression. The expert committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Satish Chandra ex-Chairman U.G.C. appointed by the U.P.S.C. to review the scheme of C.S.E. have broadly endorsed the 1979 scheme and in addition recommended introduction of an Essay paper at the Civil Services (Main) Examination in order to reinforce the testing of the above mentioned qualities This report with some modifications has also been accepted by the Government and UPSC.

b) No, Sir. The quality of logical thinking is adequately and comprehensively tested through the entire examination system.

Civil Services Examination System

309. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the logic in testing unrelated knowledge of administration through two Optionals like Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Mechancial Engineering, etc. in Civil Services Examination conducted by the UPSC for selection to I.A.S., I.P.C., etc.;

(b) what ability is tested through such Optionals which cannot be tested through General Studies;

(c) what are the reasons for not testing specific ability through only one Optional instead of two Optionals;

(d) whether Government would ensure that the U.P.S.C. evolves an examination for the Civil Service with common subjects only; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The present Scheme of the Civil Services Examination introduced in 1979 was based the report of an Expert Committee set up by the UPSC and headed by Prof. D. S. Kothari. The Committee did not recommend an examination based entirely on substantially on compulsory papers as it would drastically reduce the base for recruitment. The scheme of examination in vogue since 1979 is based on a judicious mix of compulsory and optional papers.

The present Scheme of the Civil Services was reviewed by a subsequent Expert Committee in 1988 set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. Satish Chandra which have largely endorsed the Scheme of the Examination System introduced in 1979 based on the Kothari Committee Report. The recommendations of the Satish Chandra Committee have been broadly accepted by both the UPSC and the Government.

(c) The Kothari Committee had recommended that the comprehensive assessmen of intellectual qualities of a candidate could be carried out by prescribing a optionals two subjects at honours degree level. The written examination is intended to assess the intellectual qualities and dept of understanding of a candidate rather than capacity of his gathering and reproducin information and data.

(d) and (e) No Sir, in view of the repl given at (a) and (b) above.